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BY:

Date: 2/3/05

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of: :
Hidetomo NAGAHARA, et al. :
Conf. No.: 7402 : Group Art Unit: 2834
Appln. No.: 10/620,083 : Examiner: Thomas M. Dougherty
Filing Date: July 15, 2003 : Attorney Docket No.: 10407-55US
Title: Composite Piezoelectric Transducer and Method of Fabricating the Same
(A3051MT-US1)

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2005 (Paper No. 1204) in the above-identified patent application. This response is being timely filed by February 4, 2005.

The Examiner has required restriction among claims 1 through 16, which are directed to a piezoelectric transducer (Group I); claim 17, which is directed to differently shaped piezoelectric elements (Group II); claim 18, which is directed to a layered piezoelectric device (Group III); claims 19 - 21, which are drawn to a layered piezoelectric device made by a specific method (Group IV); claims 22 - 24, which are directed to an ultrasonic probe (Group V); and claims 25 - 29, which are directed to a method of making a piezoelectric device (Group VI). The Examiner contends that the inventions are distinct because the inventions of Group I and Groups II and III are unrelated because the invention of the first group is a transducer and the other groups give no such indication. The Examiner further contends that the inventions are distinct because the inventions of Groups I through IV and Groups V through VI are unrelated because the first group is a transducer and the other groups give no such indication and that the inventions are not disclosed as being capable of being used together. The Examiner also contends that the

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inventions are distinct because the inventions of Group V and Group VI are unrelated because the invention of the first group is a transducer, the other group gives no indication and that the inventions are not disclosed as being capable of being used together.

Provisional Election

While not necessarily agreeing with the Restriction or the Examiner's contentions in support thereof, applicants provisionally elect Group I (claims 1 through 16) without traverse.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the Information Disclosure Statement filed July 15, 2003.

An early examination and allowance of the application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

February 2, 2005
(Date)

By:

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